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STATE DOCUMENTS

Montana's Foster Parent

Sharing Caring
News
Challenging

Ann Burds

Social and Rehabilitation Services
836 Front Street
June - July 1975

Helena, Montana

This newsletter is a combination April-May and June-July issue because of all the foster care activities that have taken place during the "spring" months. Both the National Conference in Atlanta and the MSFPO meeting in Glasgow took place since the last newsletter was printed. Reports on these conferences can be found on inside pages. I hope you'll take the time to read them. It seems to me that foster parents are discovering that providing food, shelter and clothing is only one segment of caring for children. Foster parents themselves are asking what more can be done to help the child, work with his natural parents, recruit new foster homes where needed and the list continues. It's encouraging to me when questions such as these are raised and I hope it continues.

By this time, you've received the questionnaire on training sessions. According to your responses, we hope to find many more ideas that you're concerned about when caring for the children placed in your home. Please return the questionnaires as soon as possible so that programs can be started in your area.

On the personal side; I was presented with a savings account to help further my education while I was at the MSFPO meeting in June. I'd just like to say thanks so much for your thoughtfulness and words of appreciation. When I attend grad school, I promise to put the money to good use. Again, a most sincere thank you.

Have a relaxing summer.



Ann Burds



A Letter To The Editor



Dear People,

I have just begun my job as Coordinator of Group Work With Foster Parents for the Department of Social Services in Hawaii. I will be working with foster parents in groups and also working on the quarterly Foster Parents Bulletin "Kealoha A Na Keiki".

I have thought of a new idea for our bulletin which you may be interested in. I would like to give foster parents the opportunity to have "foster parent pen-pals" in other parts of the country and perhaps other parts of the World. If you are interested in having foster parents from your agency correspond with foster parents in Hawaii, please let me know. I would appreciate a list of the names and addresses of foster parents wishing to have foster parent pen-pals from Hawaii. I can then place these names and addresses under a pen-pal column in our bulletin for foster parents to see and select. We will be sending you a copy of our bulletin. We appreciate receiving your copies, as well.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Renee Brochester, M.S.W.
Department of Social Services & Housing
Group Work With Foster Parents, Coordinator
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Any foster parents who are interested in sharing ideas with people in Hawaii, please write directly to Renee Brochester. Since the 1976 National Foster Parents Conference will be held in Honolulu this would be a great opportunity to learn more about the 50th state and maybe even meet your pen pals while attending the next conference.

ATTENTION

A new mailing list has recently been typed and many of the labels have only the husband's name typed on them. This does not mean the wife is excluded - only that when typing 950 labels, it's a few less words to type when only one name is typed.

If you know of any newly licensed foster parents who are not receiving this newsletter, training questionnaire, etc. and would like to do so, please send their name and address to me so that they will be included from now on. If anyone is receiving this newsletter who does not wish to, please inform me and I'll remove your name.

National Foster Parent Assoc.



Atlanta, Georgia



For a report to Atlanta, I found the whole convention very enjoyable and informative. The workshops I attended were "Teenage Sex, Yes or No", "How to Get Education Started For Foster Parents", "Life In the Home With Adolescents" and "Living With Teenagers", plus "Group Care For Mentally-bothered Children".

As you can see, I specialized in the care for teenagers, as we have 4 in our home, 3 natural and 1 foster. I came home with a fresh feeling of goodness. Meeting other foster parents and caseworkers from other states, I learned each state handles their finances different, some are very stringent, ours are very good. Also there is a good feeling and communication between our Social workers and foster parents. I found this to be untrue in some other states and cities. It was really great being there, listening to foster parents from all over the U.S., talking and sharing good and bad experiences they've had raising foster children.

It all seems to boil down to they are just children, needing loads of patience and love, plus a lot of understanding, that it's really rough being a foster child.

I am thankful for the opportunity of going, and encourage any and all to go every chance they can, to help better care for children, not just foster children, all children, natural or otherwise.

Jan Reagor - Great Falls

Other people who attended the Conference in Altanta from Montana were:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr. and Mrs. Ken Schlinger | - Whitefish |
| Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Lindsley | - Columbia Falls |
| Mrs. Kathy Schnaidt | - Flathead Co. DPW |
| Mr. and Mrs. Al Rainey | - Helena |
| Mrs. Lynn Pippard | - Lewis & Clark Co. DPW |
| Mr. and Mrs. Dick Anderson | - Glasgow |
| Ms. Rita Box | - Valley Co. DPW |
| Mrs. Shirley Stevens | - Great Falls |

RESOURCE LIBRARY

At the National Conference, the MSFPO purchased the following cassette tapes of sessions/workshops that were presented in Atlanta. These are available to all foster parents, foster parent associations, and social workers at no cost if you would like to borrow them. You may do so by writing to Ann Burds, Social and Rehabilitation Services, Box 1723, Helena, MT 59601 or by calling 449-3724.

Below the list of tapes is also a list of reading material that is available on loan through my office. In following issues of this newsletter additional reading material will be listed too.

Cassette Tapes

De-Institutionalization of Children by Dr. George Thomas, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia (90 minutes)

The Parent Therapist by Donald Herald, Chedoke - McMaster Center, Chedoke Hospital, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada (part 1 - 1 hour, part 2 - 1 hour)

Setting Up Foster Parent Training by Mrs. Kay Haganbeck, Region IX Vice-President National Foster Parent Association, Daly City, California (part 1 - 1 hour, part 2 - 1 hour)

The Subject is Teenagers by Mary Reistroffer, Associate Professor, Center for Social Service, University of Wisconsin (part 1 - 1 hour, part 2 - 45 minutes)

The Study of Good Foster Parents by Colleen McCord, Division of Social Services, Tulsa, Oklahoma (1 hour)

Children and the Law by the Honorable Lisa Richette, Common Pleas Court, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (part 1 - 1 hour, part 2 - 1 hour)

Schools and Foster Children - Adjustment by Kenneth Childers, Principal of Forest Hills Elementary School, Dekalb Co., Georgia and Mrs. Linda Powers, Counselor, Forest Hills Elementary School, DeKalb Co., Georgia (90 minutes)

Supportive Services for Foster Parents by Bernice Kennedy, Specialist in Community Programs for Children, Department of HEW, OCD, Kansas City, Missouri (part 1 - 1 hour, part 2 - 1 hour)

Foster Families - The Impact of Persons Who Care by Mary Reistroffer, Associate Professor, Center for Social Service, University of Wisconsin (1 hour)

Contracts in Foster Care - Goal Establishment - Role Development by Mary Reistroffer (90 minutes)

Not Super Parent, But Superb Parents by Honorable Judge Lisa Richette, Common Pleas Court, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (part 1 - 1 hour, part 2 - 1 hour)

From the Administrators Chair - Views on Foster Care by Donald Galloway, Director Social Services Bureau, Commerce, California, Salley Hedsten, Division of Foster Care, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Richard Bond, Director, Division of Child Welfare, Springfield, Illinois, and Mary Margaret Carr, Georgia Dept. of Human Resources, Atlanta, Georgia (90 Minutes)

Love, Belongingness, Self Respect, and Self Esteem by Dr. Robert Regdon, Associate Professor of Psychology, Western Carolina University, Cullowee, N.C. (90 minutes)

Identifying and Treating the Abused Child by Dr. Robert Ten Bensel, Associate Professor, Dept. of Pediatrics, Hennepin Co., Minnesota (part 1 - 90 minutes, part 2 - 1 hour)

BOOKS

Foster Parenting Young Children, Guidelines from a Foster Parent

Between Parent and Child

Beyond the Best Interests of the Child

The Drifters, Children of Disorganized Lower Class Families.

Child Welfare and Children Today Magazines

Young Children and Accidents in the Home

Orphans of the Living, the Foster Care Crisis

Institution or Foster Family, A century of debate

Child Welfare League of America Standards for Foster Family Care Services

Parental Survival and the Hyperactive Child

Foster Parents and Social Workers On the Job Together

What You Always Wanted to Discuss About Foster Care But Didn't Have the Time
Or The Chance to Bring Up

What's So Special About Teenagers

On Fostering, Fifteen Articles by and for foster parents

Reflections on Foster Care

Region 8 Scholarship

The Region VIII scholarship committee is pleased to announce Robert S. from Clearmont, Wyoming as the recipient of the \$500 award. He will be attending Wyoming Technical Institute in Laramie, Wyoming in the fall to study automotive mechanics.

A total of eighteen foster children applied for the scholarship from the six state region consisting of North Dakota, South Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and Montana. Each state organization contributed \$100 toward the scholarship fund.

In addition to the \$500, several states in the region have given savings bonds to the students who applied from their respective states.

The Montana State Foster Parent Organization presented a \$50 Savings Bond to each of the four student applicants from Montana.

Foster Homes Needed

June 29, 1975 marked the end of the first year of a special Social and Rehabilitation Services demonstration project to de-institutionalize young mentally retarded children from Boulder River School and Hospital.

Fourteen children left the world of the wards and cottages of the institution behind this year, to become members of new families. "We really tried hard to match kids and homes, and I think we usually made it," Marge Rankin, the Placement Project Director says. "All the kids who left are still with their new families and it looks like they are 'home'."

The children placed went to homes scattered throughout Central and Western Montana. Most of them acquired new brothers and sisters as well as new moms and dads. "Sometimes people are hesitant to accept handicapped foster children because they are a little concerned that their own kids cannot handle the idea of a child with problems. Usually the opposite is true. Children who have retarded brothers and sisters usually develop a strong sense of empathy and understanding."

Testing prior to placement and re-testing after placement produced some interesting data. Most of the children placed made fairly rapid strides shortly after placement, with an overall development, on a random sampling basis of four of the children, of about four months during a six month time interval. Since overall these children had been progressing at a rate of about 30%, this transition to a new home environment produced, at least momentarily, a really positive growth spurt; one little two year old girl gained nearly a year in development in five months.

Other effects were: a greatly reduced number of seizures for one particular child, tremendous physical changes such as dramatic weight gains for two children who had been seriously undersized, and the diminishment of many institution associated behaviors such as biting or bizarre kinds of movements.

The school age children are all attending public schools. Although one little guy was very severely physically handicapped, as well as retarded. He too, attends school daily. Services such as special therapy, physical therapy, or occupational therapy are provided in the community by community resources such as the Child Development Center in Missoula or by school districts.

Not all of the children at Boulder were part of the lucky fourteen who found homes. Because the project was highly successful with the children who were placed, the project has been funded for a second year, but foster homes are needed for about fifteen more children involved in the project.

Interested foster parent applicants should contact Marge Rankin at 507 Power Block, Helena, Montana 59601 or call 449-2590.



MSFPO MINUTES

The Third Montana State Foster Parents meeting was held in Glasgow Montana on June 7 and 8, 1975 with President John Lombardo presiding.

The minutes were read and approved.

The President read and explained amendments to the By-Laws.

A motion was made by Jessie Schlinger, seconded by Edith West we amend Article II. Carried.

A motion by Gil Alexander, seconded by Jessie Schlinger we amend Article III carried.

Articles IV and V were voted on and approved as amended.

President announced that the new President should pick an auditor.

Discussion on bonding officers that handle money. Vote was taken and this was approved.

We have been invited to Billings for our next meeting. We discussed whether to have one or two day meeting. It was decided two days and the date chosen was October 25 and 26. It was suggested guidance counselors and teachers be invited.

President John Lombardo spoke about our new library, which will include tapes, films and books for use statewide when local groups are planning their programs.

A Letter was received from the Youth Development Bureau on the funding. M.S.F.P.O. must raise \$1500 by July 1, 1976 for matching funds. This will fund library, education program, Foster Parent Coordinators wages and expenses and fund five foster parent couples to the National Convention.

Ann Burds reported the winner of the regional scholarship. Robert S. from Wyoming was first. The four Montana applicants were among the top five.

Discussion followed on giving some monetary reward to the Montana applicants. Motion was made by Gil Alexander, seconded by Frank Klempel that this be done on a continuing basis. Carried.

A motion was made by Russell Josephson, seconded by Allen Rainey that the amount be voted on each year. Carried.

A motion was made by Mary Strouf, seconded by Gil Alexander that we give \$50 bonds to all four this year. Carried.

Ann Burds reported a change in the training program. We will be using a program that S.R.S. office and Ann have been working on rather than the P.E.T. training we had voted on. Coordinators will be Ann Burds, Jim Pomroy and Ron Mullis.

Treasurers report was \$792.10 report accepted.

The President reported on new committee formed - Education Committee.

National foster parent meetings will be in Hawaii and the President explained about the merit system for choosing couples. Jessie Schlinger is chairman of the committee. Also we can use the same process as before thru county funding.

A program on Indian Culture followed.

Nominations for Officers followed:

President
Gil Alexander
John Lombardo
Edith West

Vice President
Barbara Hauge

Corresponding Secretary
Pat Steiger

Recording Secretary
Jessie Schlinger

Treasurer
Anita Simonson
Frank Klempel

Program on child abuse by Pete Turdock followed.

Election of officers with these officers chosen:

President	- John Lombardo
Vice President	- Barbara Hauge
Corresponding Secretary	- Pat Steiger
Recording Secretary	- Jessie Schlinger
Treasurer	- Anita Simonson

Saturday meeting adjourned.

No host banquet followed in the evening.

Meeting called to order June 8 by President John Lombardo.

John picked Jack Stevens from Great Falls to audit books.

Lynn Pippard gave a report on the National Convention.

Committee reports followed:

Communications Committee Report - Gil Alexander suggested a hot line to collect and give out news. Need more news from each district for newsletter items.

Finance Committee Report - None

Insurance Committee Report - None

Legislative Committee Report - Board payments were raised from \$90 to \$125 and \$100 to \$150. \$50 clothing fee, $\frac{1}{2}$ by state, $\frac{1}{2}$ by county, and all foster parents covered by insurance. We will be working on medical funding for subsidized adoption.

New Committees picked: - The committees can be found on the following pages of the newsletter.

President asked for nominations from floor for regional Vice President. Russell Josephson was nominated. Nomination for regional professional - Kathy Schnaidt was chosen.

Edith West asked about an emblem for our State Organization. This was turned over to her committee.

President asked that a letter to S.R.S. office expressing our thanks for all their help this year be written.

Program on the troubled child followed

Meeting closed.

Jessie Schlinger
Recording Secretary

OFFICERS OF MONTANA STATE FOSTER PARENT ORGANIZATION
1975 - 1976

Executive Board

President: John Lombardo, 1934 Hauser, Helena 59601
Vice-Pres.: Barbara Hauge, R.R. #1, Turner 59542
Corr. Secty.: Pat Steiger, 108 N. Crawford, Hardin 59034
Recd. Secty.: Jessie Schlinger, 437 Somers, Whitefish 59937
Treasurer: Anita Simonsen, 34 Perth, Glasgow 59230

Standing Committees

MEMBERSHIP - COMMUNICATIONS

- I. Recruit new members
 - A. Develop a pamphlet describing MSFPO
 1. Include purposes, activities, officers
 2. Describe past accomplishments and future plans
 - II. Recruit prospective foster parents
 - A. Determine the need for specialized foster homes .
(i.e. teenagers, mentally-physically handicapped)
 1. Coordinate efforts with local welfare offices
 - III. Maintain an updated list of all members
 - A. Send membership cards
 - B. Separate categorically according to dues structure.
 - IV. Write articles for Montana's Foster Parent News
 - A. Local input on information regarding foster parent association.
 - V. Year round media coverage of foster parents associations events locally and statewide
 - A. Special attention during National Foster Childrens Week annually.
 - B. Public relations to the National Foster Parent Association
 - VI. Strengthen the MSFPO resource library
 - A. Purchase additional books, pamphlets, films, etc.
- Chairman: Edith West, 140 Riverview 1 W, Great Falls 59401
Sally Cook, Box 303, Ronan 59864
Sharon Thompson, Route 1, Box 243, Glasgow, 59230
Jane Green, Route 1, Box 153, Harlem 59 526
Joyce Rainey, Route 1, Elliston 59728
Marietta Eby, 17061 Independence Lane, Billings 59101

PROGRAM AND CONFERENCE

- I. Plan October MSFPO meeting
 - A. Use suggestions sheets from spring meeting to determine foster parents priorities for the agenda
 - B. Invite speakers and arrange transportation
 - C. Arrange food and lodging accomodations

Chairman: Fall 1975 - Big Sky Foster Parent Association - Billings
Spring 1976 - Cascade County Foster Parents Assocaition - Great Falls

FINANCE

- I. Be aware of available money to strengthen MSFPO
 - A. Understand grant writing process
 - B. Seek monetary donations locally
- II. Determine profitable fund raising activities and take appropriate action
- III. Consider investment ideas

Chairman: Debi Gililland, 111 S.Lake, Miles City 59301
Anita Simonsen, 34 Perth, Glasgow 59230
Harry Garberg, 2061 Hallowell, Billings 59101

LEGISLATURE

- I. Learn the legislative process - how a bill becomes a law, etc.
- II. Establish foster or child care related priorities for the 1977 session
 - A. Subsidized Adoption - work with state agency to write an effective policy
- III. Communicate closely and often with state and local legislators and SRS personnel.

Chairman: Marie Lombardo, 1937 Hauser, Helena 59601
Shirley Stevens, 1400 3rd Ave. North, Great Falls 59401
Jessie Schlinger, 437 Somers, Whitefish 59937
Alan Rainey, R.R., Elliston 59728
Mrs. Earl Keough, Archer Star Route, Box 6, Plentywood 59254
Pat Steiger, 100 N. Crawford, Hardin 59034

NOMINATIONS

- I. Secure nominations for each of the executive officers in February at the Board meeting
 - A. Contact District Representatives for suggestions
- II. Write ballot with brief resume's (not more than 100 words for each candidate)
 - A. Turn in to recording secretary two weeks prior to general spring meeting

Chairman: Marilyn Alexander, 7012 Birdseye Austin Road, Helena 59601
Harriet Klempel, R.R. #1, Box 53, Savange 59262
Peg Anderson, 663 No. Main, Kalispell 59901

EDUCATION

- I. Plan with SRS personnel to set up statewide "training" programs
 - A. Input on subjects of discussion
 - B. Seek speakers, especially foster parents on related subjects
- II. Follow-up with evaluation - seek improvements for ongoing sessions

Chairman: Gil Alexander, 7012 Birdseye Austin Road, Helena 59601
Jan Reagor, Aux Rt. 2, Box 825, Great Falls 59401
Linda Wadell, 216 A. Spruce 51G, Glasgow AFB 59230

Arlene Lindsley, Rt. 2, Box 205 A, Columbia Falls 59912
Sally Shipp, North Star Route, Glasgow 59230
Frank SlempeL, Box 53, Savage 59262
Alan Rainey, R.R., Elliston 59728

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES, ALTERNATES AND SOCIAL WORKERS

Billings

Rep.: Esther Williams, 1423 Main, Billings 59101
Alt.: Diane Swecker, 1114 Sunhaven Drive, Laurel 59044
S.W.: Mike Nicholes, Yellowstone County, Billings 59101

Glasgow

Rep.: Dick Anderson, 610 Fifth St., North Glasgow 59230
Alt.: Barb Anderson, 610 Fifth St., North Glasgow 59230
S.W.: Judy Skornogoski, Valley County Welfare, Glasgow 59230

Great Falls

Rep.: Edith West, 140 Riverview 1 W., Great Falls 59401
Alt.: Shirley Stevens, 1400 3rd Ave. No., Great Falls 59401
S.W.: Harriet YlueN, Cascade County Welfare, Great Falls, 59401

Helena

Rep.: Jeanette Mattfeldt, 563 Broadway, Helena 59601
Alt.: Alice Molse, 1621 6th Ave., Helena 59601
S.W.: Lynn Pippard, Lewis & Clark County Welfare, Helena 59601

Kalispell

Rep.: Sally Cook, Box 303, Ronan 59864
Alt.: Georgie Vaughn, Route 4, Box 534Z, Libby 59923
S.W.: Kathy Schuaidt, Flathead County Welfare, Kalispell 59901

Missoula

Rep.: Alan Rainey, R.R., Elliston 59728
Alt.: Dave Reiker, 731 Schilling, Missoula 59801
S.W.: Daron Duncan, Missoula District SRS Office, Missoula 59801

Miles City

Rep.: Debi Gililland, 111 S. Lake, Miles City 59301
Alt.: Frank Klempel, Box 53, Savage 59262
S.W.: Virginia Knapp, Richland County, Sidney 59270

State of Montana
Social and Rehabilitation Services
P.O. Box 1723
Helena, MT 59601

ATTN: Ann Burds